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- a) a sample transport medium for stabilization of the biological sample;
 - b) a probe complementary to the target nucleic acid sequence for formation of a double-stranded RNA/DNA hybrid;
 - c) a solid phase to which an anti-hybrid antibody or a functional anti-hybrid antibody fragment has been immobilized, wherein the antibody or antibody fragment specifically binds to a component of the double-stranded RNA/DNA hybrid; and
 - d) means for detecting the hybrid formed by hybridization of the probe and the target nucleic acid sequence.

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request favorable consideration of the present application and claims. The newly added claims are supported by the original specification and do not introduce any new matter. Early and favorable action by the Examiner is earnestly solicited.

No additional fee is believed to be necessary.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for this amendment, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No. 2629-4023.

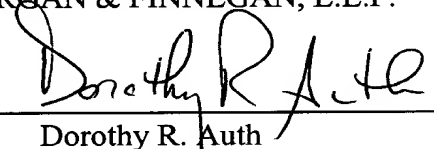
In the event that an extension of time is required, or which may be required in addition to that requested in a petition and for an extension of time, the Commissioner is requested to grant a petition for that extension of time which is required to make this response timely and is hereby authorized to charge any fee for such an extension of time or credit any overpayment for an extension of time to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No. 2629-4023
A DUPLICATE COPY OF THIS SHEET IS ATTACHED.

Respectfully submitted,

MORGAN & FINNEGAN, L.L.P.

Date: May 7, 2001

By:


Dorothy R. Auth
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